

indicated with a plus sign (+) while those conserved only within the plant sequences are indicated by an asterisk (\*).

Paragraph beginning at page 4, line 21:

Figure 4 (A-B) depicts the amino acid sequence alignments between the branched chain amino acid transaminase from rice clone rls72.pk0014.a3 (SEQ ID NO:22), soybean clone sre.pk0001.d1 (SEQ ID NO:24), soybean clone srr2c.pk003.d20 (SEQ ID NO:26), wheat clone wlln.pk0123.c11 (SEQ ID NO:28), and *Methanococcus jannaschii* (NCBI gi Accession No. 124380, SEQ ID NO:29). Amino acids which are conserved among all sequences are indicated with a plus sign (+) while those conserved only within the plant sequences are indicated by an asterisk (\*).

**Paragraph beginning at page 4, line 28:**

Figure 5 (A-B) depicts the amino acid sequence alignments between the branched chain amino acid transaminase from corn clone cco1.pk0030.d2 (SEQ ID NO:31), wheat clone wkm1c.pk0004.c7 (SEQ ID NO:33), and *Escherichia coli* (NCBI gi Accession No. 1705437, SEQ ID NO:34). Amino acids which are conserved among all sequences are indicated with a plus sign (+) while those conserved only within the plant sequences are indicated by an asterisk (\*).

**Paragraph beginning at page 4, line 34:**

Figure 6 (A-C) depicts the amino acid sequence alignments between the *leuC* subunit of 3-isopropylmalate dehydratase from the corn contig assembled from clones cen1.pk0032.b1, cta1n.pk0077.c7, cen3n.pk0015.g3, cen3n.pk0060.h4, and cen3n.pk0121.h11 (SEQ ID NO:36), corn clone cr1n.pk0153.e9 (SEQ ID NO:38), rice clone rl0n.pk087.k16 (SEQ ID NO:40), soybean contig assembled from clones sdp3c.pk008.k13, and srm.pk0006.h5 (SEQ ID NO:42), wheat clone wre1n.pk0045.b10 (SEQ ID NO:44), and *Rhizomucor pusillus* (NCBI gi Accession No. 1708799, SEQ ID NO:45). Amino acids which are conserved among all sequences are indicated with a plus sign (+) while those conserved only within the plant sequences are indicated by an asterisk (\*).

Paragraph beginning at page 5, line 5:

Figure 7 (A-B) depicts the amino acid sequence alignments between the *leuD* subunit of 3-isopropylmalate dehydratase from corn clone cr1n.pk0123.b7 (SEQ ID NO:47), rice clone rls12.pk0001.c2 (SEQ ID NO:49), soybean clone srr1c.pk003.c2 (SEQ ID NO:51), wheat clone wl1n.pk0048.a6 (SEQ ID NO:53), and *Lactococcus lactis* (NCBI gi Accession No. 400187, SEQ ID NO:54). Amino acids which are conserved among all sequences are indicated with a plus sign (+) while those conserved only within the plant sequences are indicated by an asterisk (\*).

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-26. Please add the following claims:

27. "added" An isolated ~~polynucleotide~~ comprising: